

# EXEMPTIONS 101



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## What is a religious exemption?

Religious exemptions are used when a parent has a sincerely held belief that prohibits their child/children from receiving vaccinations.

## How Do I Get an exemption?

Because each state sets their own laws, every process is different for each state.

It can also depend on the school. Your school may have their own form for you to complete.

# Exemption Form

# Arizona Requirements



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Beliefs Exemption Form**  
**Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Only**

Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) strongly supports immunization as one of the easiest and most effective tools in preventing diseases that can cause serious illness and even death. ADHS also respects the rights of parents to decide whether or not to vaccinate their child. By state law, (A.R.S. §15-873) a child will not be allowed to attend school until either proof of immunization or a completed exemption form is submitted to the school. The information below is provided to ensure that parents are informed about the risks of not vaccinating.

Place an "X" in the box to the left of the disease(s) listed to exempt your child from the vaccine. Initial and date the box on the right.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Diphtheria (DTaP, Tdap, Td):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing diphtheria if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: heart failure, paralysis (can't move parts of the body), breathing problems, coma, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Tetanus (DTaP, Tdap, Td):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing tetanus if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: "locking" of the jaw, difficulty in swallowing and breathing, seizures (jerking and staring), painful tightening of muscles in the head and neck, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (DTaP, Tdap):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing pertussis (whooping cough) if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: severe coughing fits that can cause vomiting and exhaustion, pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Polio (IPV):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing polio if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: paralysis (can't move parts of the body), meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord covering), permanent disability, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing measles, mumps, and/or rubella if exposed to these diseases. Serious symptoms and effects of measles include: pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring), brain damage, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of mumps include: meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord covering), painful swelling of the testicles or ovaries, sterility, deafness, and death. Serious symptoms and effects of rubella include: rash, arthritis, and muscle or joint pain. If a woman gets rubella while she is pregnant, she could have a miscarriage or her baby could be born with serious birth defects such as deafness, heart problems, and brain damage.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hepatitis B:</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing hepatitis B if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), life-long liver problems, such as scarring and liver cancer, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Varicella (Chickenpox):</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing varicella (chickenpox) if exposed to this disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: severe skin infections, pneumonia, brain damage, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Meningococcal:</b> I have been informed that by not receiving this vaccine, my child may be at increased risk of developing meningococcal disease. Serious symptoms and effects of this disease include: brain damage, sepsis (systemic infection) permanent scarring or loss of limbs, and death.	Initials _____ Date _____

Due to my personal beliefs, I request an exemption for my child from the required vaccine doses selected above. I am aware that if I change my mind in the future, I can rescind this exemption and obtain immunizations for my child.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

- I am aware that additional information about vaccine preventable diseases, vaccines and reduced or no cost vaccination services are available from my local county health department and Arizona Department of Health Services ([www.azdhs.gov/phis/immunization/](http://www.azdhs.gov/phis/immunization/)).
- I am aware that in the event the state or county health department declares an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease for which I cannot provide proof of immunity for my child, he or she may not be allowed to attend school until the risk period ends, which may be 3 weeks or longer.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Beliefs Exemption:**  
**For a child attending school in grades K-12, the child may be exempted from the applicable immunization requirements if the child's parent submits to the school a signed ADHS Personal Beliefs Exemption Form testifying that immunizations are against the personal beliefs of the parent. Each section of the Personal Beliefs Exemption Form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. This exemption only applies to students in grades K-12. Child care centers, preschools and Head Start may not use personal belief exemptions.**

**Religious Beliefs Exemption:**  
**For a child attending child care or preschool, the child may be exempted from the applicable immunization requirements if the child's parent submits to the child care facility a signed ADHS Religious Beliefs Exemption Form testifying that immunizations are against the religious beliefs of the parent. The Religious Beliefs Exemption Form must be completed and signed by the parent/guardian. This exemption only applies to child care centers, preschool and Head Start. Grades K-12 may not use religious belief exemption.**

When Exemption Forms are to be Completed/Resubmitted:

- When the student enrolls in a new school and the parent requests an exemption
- When a student transfers from one school to another with or without an existing exemption form
- When a new vaccine is required for age or vaccine requirements change
- When the ADHS exemption forms or format changes. Specific instructions and guidance will be provided by ADHS when this occurs.